

# State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Permanency for Adolescents Committee

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016 -- 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

In Attendance:

The Hon. Peter B. Jones (Co-Chair)	Liz Fillingame, Esq.
Shirley Roberts (Co-Chair)	Amanda Sipple
Lauren Brueckner	Gwen Stubbolo
The Hon. Barbara Crowell	Brittany Willard
Colin Dunlavey, Esq.	

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Shirley Roberts, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from July 29, 2016 were approved.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. New Castle County Courthouse Mural**

Amanda Sipple reported on the New Castle County Courthouse Mural Unveiling. The dedication and donation event occurred on October 7<sup>th</sup> and had over 100 attendees. It was televised by channels 3, 6 and 10 as well as written about in the Delaware News Journal. Several youth were able to attend the mural unveiling including the Youth Advisory Council President, Joe, who provided remarks. In addition, members of the Cooper Family were able to attend the event, which dedicated the mural to the late Judge Alan N. Cooper.

### **b. Youth Transition Guide**

No work has been completed since the last meeting on the youth transition guide as a result of large turnover in staff within the DFS unit that was spearheading the changes to the guide. Any suggestions for a new plan to complete the youth transition guide are welcomed.

### **c. Sex Education and Pregnancy Prevention**

No work has been completed since the last meeting on the Sex Education and Pregnancy Prevention Guide. Shirley Roberts reported that independent living workers across the state are receiving training from a non-profit called Upstream USA, who in partnership with the Delaware Division of Public Health, is providing a full range of contraceptive methods, technical assistance, and education to a variety of agencies and contractors working with the youth population. Ms. Roberts reported out that since 2012 the percentages of youth who became pregnant or were parenting has remained steady at 18%. The next training will be on November 30, 2106 at DFS for independent living and adolescent workers. If there is additional space other attendees may be invited.

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### d. Implementation of P.L. 113-183

Judge Jones reported that the Judiciary has now completed four trainings regarding the changes surrounding P.L. 113-183. Ms. Roberts reported out that foster parents have completed training and should be confidently answering normalcy questions during court hearings.

## IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Permanency Options

Lauren Brueckner reported that the Permanency Options workgroup had completed their charge and would like to disband. A motion was made by Ms. Brueckner and seconded by Judge Jones to dissolve the Permanency Options Workgroup. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

### b. Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks

Ms. Roberts reported on the self-sufficiency benchmarks. The benchmarks should be completed and available for committee review and approval by the next quarterly meeting.

## V. DUAL STATUS YOUTH STATISTICS

### a. APPLA

The number of youth has continued to decrease. At the next meeting youth under 16 will no longer be reflected in the APPLA charts. Youth ages 16 and 17, with the plan of APPLA, will be charted for the past two years to show the trends in APPLA for these individual age groups. Also, notable is the extremely large decrease in APPLA plan, particularly Sussex County.

### b. EJ

The number of youth with and entering extended jurisdiction are not changing substantively quarter to quarter.

### c. Social Security

As of September 2016, more than 100 youth were receiving social security benefits and 27.4% of those 100 youth were 17 years of age.

### d. Juvenile Justice

Liz Fillingame, Esq. and Brittany Willard completed a power point presentation for the committee regarding OCA youth juvenile justice statistics. During the first quarter of the

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fiscal year 2017, 51% of OCA youth were identified as having involvement with the juvenile justice system. At the last meeting OCA was asked to clarify whether youth are involved with juvenile justice before or after they are in DFS custody. According to the research completed by Ms. Willard, the median age at the time of the first charge is younger than the median age at the time of the first ex parte petition for DFS custody. Additionally, a group of youth who had been in care more than one time was reviewed. Of these 17 youth with juvenile justice involvement, thirteen had been in care one other time and four had been in care two times. Only one of these 17 youth received charges while in DFS custody, 15 acquired charges sometime between exiting DFS custody and re-entering, and 1 youth attained charges before coming into care.

### **VI. 2017 MEETING DATES**

January 27, 2017  
April 28, 2017  
July 28, 2017  
October 20, 2017

All meetings will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in both Wilmington and Georgetown.

### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.